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30. Herbarium Suggestions.—No. 2. *Cases for specimens*.—Fire-proof apartments and cases fixed to the walls are usually attainable only by Colleges and other public institutions ; although, to their shame be it said, they are often too penurious to provide such necessary protection to invaluable collections, that, once destroyed, could never be replaced.

The amateur botanist must be content with humbler accommodations. In ordering the cases to contain his collection, he has to determine the material of which they are to be made, their external dimensions, the number and size of the compartments, etc. ; bearing in mind that they should not be so large and unwieldy that they cannot readily be moved if necessity requires ; that they should be of such a shape that others may be added to their number as his collection increases ; and that the compartments should be within easy reach of the hand and properly adapted to the size of his sheets.

After trying cases of different forms and sizes, my own experience leads me to recommend the following dimensions, which are particularly adapted to the genus-covers previously suggested, viz. : 18 × 20 inches, but which will answer for sheets smaller in either direction by about an inch.

*Material*.—Black walnut externally, one inch in thickness and well-seasoned. Internally, pine or other light wood.

*External dimensions*.—Width, four feet, six inches. Height, three feet, seven and a half inches. Depth, twenty-one inches.

*Internal arrangement*.—Depth in the clear, nineteen inches.

Four series of compartments, side to side, of twelve each ; forty-eight compartments to each case

Each compartment twelve and six-tenths inches wide, and three inches high.

*Doors*.—Two in number, meeting in the centre ; each three feet, five and a half inches high by two feet, two and a half inches wide, and panelled.

It will be a great convenience to have each shelf cut out at its centre in a semi-lunar form, so as to facilitate raising the sheets above it between the fingers.

If two of these cases be placed one upon the other, the upper compartments of the higher one will still be within reach by stepping upon an ordinary chair. Any greater height requiring the use of a step ladder is better avoided, for obvious reasons.

The height, above recommended, of each compartment, viz., three inches, is less than that usually adopted in large herbaria, in which five inches are about the common standard ; but for herbaria of moderate size, I think the former measurement preferable, to avoid crowding a number of small natural families together.

A case like the above will cost, at the present time, in New York City, about forty-five dollars, but can doubtless be made cheaper in the country. About five dollars will be saved by having the exterior of pine wood.

F. J. B.

31. *Viola rostrata*, Pursh.—We recently detected this fine violet in a rocky glen among the hills back of South Orange, N. J. It is

particularly abundant about the foot of what is called Hemlock Falls, where *Mitella depphylla*, L., also abounds. This makes the twelfth violet in our catalogue, not counting the varieties. Of the latter we sought in vain this season in the locality indicated by Mr. Hall, Vol. I. § 49, for the white and bicolor varieties of *V. pedata*, L., but found the variegated *V. cucullata* abundant. A longer search might have revealed the others. The long beak of *V. rostrata* is very remarkable, being fully twice as long as the petals. Would that some naturalist would discover what moth or other insect is required to sound the depths of this deep nectary, and whose comparative rarity must be the occasion of the rarity of this species, which, we understand is abundant in the interior of the state.

While speaking of Violets, we may mention that our attention has been called this spring to the fragrance of *V. blanda*. We gathered many flowers of this sweet smelling species which seemed quite devoid of odor; whereas, on the other hand, we thought we discovered a faint fragrance in *V. lanceolata*, none at all in *V. primulaefolia*. We should like to learn the experience of others on this subject. *V. tricolor*, var. *arvensis*, was very abundant this May on the rocks back of Weehawken ferry overlooking the Hackensack meadows.

32. I have just received a letter from Rev. Dr. Shoop, now at Augusta, Michigan, who sends me a specimen of *Corydalis flavula*, Raf., with the remark "I found it first along the Mich. C. R. R. track, "four specimens of it, but it did not appear to be established, but "rather a new comer, whose hold was slight and existence precarious. I afterwards found one specimen in the woods. I send "you a specimen in this. This is the whole plant I found in the "woods, except the root and root leaves." The particularly curious thing about the specimens is their size. The one Mr. Shoop sends me is, by exact measurement, 2 3/16-100 inches in extreme height, and 4-5 of an inch in its widest spread. It has two blossoms.

Mr. Shoop also has some remarks about the early spring which may be worth mentioning: "*Acer dasycarpum* in flower on 11th March, *Erigenia bulbosa* in flower on the 21st March, and heard of its being found by others in flower several days earlier. Eight plants in flower in March, and 46 by the 1st of May." His climate is much colder than ours: about the latitude of Albany. I. H. H.

33. *Utricularia minor*, L.—Mr. Merriam informs me that Mr. G. B. Brainerd has gathered what he considers to be this plant from small pools near the shore at New Lots, L. I. I am pretty confident that I gathered it many years since on the shore of a small pond between South Brooklyn and Flatbush. This was late in the season, and I lost the specimens on the way home, so that I was unable to give it a close examination, and had no opportunity for revisiting the spot that year. I have never been able to find the plant since. W. H. L.

34. Extra-limital.—Mr. Austin writes that he has found *Gratiola sphaerocarpa*, Ell., in Cape May Co., N. J.; also, in South Jersey, *Plantago heterophylla*, Nutt. *Utricularia subulata*, L., also grows in the Jersey pine barrens. Some, or all, of these plants are to be looked for within our limits.